

*White Coats &
Pickup Trucks...
Profiles of the Rural
Physician*

Pursuing creative care in Camden



Photo/Brandon Lovett

*Dr. Willie White discusses
health care professions with
students in Camden.*

By Dr. Jim Kenny
Publisher

Country doctors. They're not what they used to be. Except, sometimes they still are...

They've changed as the countryside has changed. They've gone, by and large, from being truly rural—perhaps living in the biggest house in the smallest village—to becoming a part of the suburbanized country, from being a country doc to a rural health care practitioner.

It's easier nowadays to

See Doctors
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New Pad



Photo/Dr. Jim Kenny

The Shelton State Foundation recently unveiled its newest accomplishment: a new home for the college president. The house, conveniently located in Woodbank a couple of miles from the campus, will also serve as a showplace meeting site for SSCC. Foundation director Lew Drummond was ecstatic about what the Foundation got for its investment. For instance, he said, "The pillars are from the David O. Parker estate and were donated by the new owners, Emmett and Glenda Dendy. We could never have afforded such beautiful touches otherwise."

The Time for honors & ceremonies

Shelton State held its 51st spring commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 6 at 7 p.m. in the Umphrey Center of the Martin Campus.

Acting Dean of Students Diane Layton said, "The annual graduation ceremony is an opportunity for students, their friends and families to celebrate their accomplishments at Shelton State. This year over 230 students were awarded certificates or degrees."



Photo/Brandon Lovett

See Graduation
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Some 230 students were awarded certificates and degrees during graduation ceremonies on May 6 in the Umphrey Center.

Commencing to help others



Photo/PTK

Lindsey Thomas (L), PTK president leadership leader, and Brittany Cockrell (R), PTK service leader, organize the goods donated for Feed the Body, Feed the Mind.

By Brittany Cockrell
PTK Representative

Shelton State's Phi Theta Kappa students and faculty helped in the fight against hunger and illiteracy by donating books and canned goods to the local Hannah Home.

On April 15, PTK began project graduation for the spring. Collection boxes were placed at Shelton's Martin and Fredd campuses, Tuscaloosa County High School, Greensboro West High School and Vance Elementary School. Students and faculty donated 336 books and 175 non-perishable food items. The project ended on May 6, and these items were given to the local Hannah Home which helps underprivileged women and children.

PTK's next drive will take place in the fall, and they are hoping for an even more successful event.

Inside The Courier

- A session with Sessions's aide...page 2
- SSCC summer learning activities for kids...page 2
- The sun will come up June 17 if not "Tomorrow" at the Bean-Brown...page 4
- And much more!



Summer activities at Shelton State solve the "Mom, I'm bored" problem

Shelton State Community College will be offering a variety of summer day-options during the summer of 2004. With activities ranging from academics to sports to theatre and dance, the "Mom, I'm bored" summer refrain can become a thing of the past.

Sports Camps begin June 7 with a variety of programs through July 30.

June 7-11 Soccer Camp for girls and boys, June 14-18 Cheerleader Camp for girls, July 12-16 Basketball Camp for boys, July 19-23 Basketball Camp for girls, July 26-30 Softball Camp for girls, June 1-22 Soccer Coaches Training.

Organized for children ages six to twelve, the cost of the camps is \$125/session. For additional information on any of the Shelton State Sports Camps, contact the Office of Continuing Education at 205/391-2386.

Kids' Kollege - an Academic Program provides quality academic experiences for students beginning with those who have completed kindergarten.

With courses ranging from reading to math, study skills, and language arts to visual arts, Kids' Kollege is offered Monday through Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 5:20 p.m. Also included are preparation courses for Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry. Classes begin June 10 and run through June 25. Registration fee is

\$155/course. For registration information, contact the Office of Continuing Education at 205/391-2386.

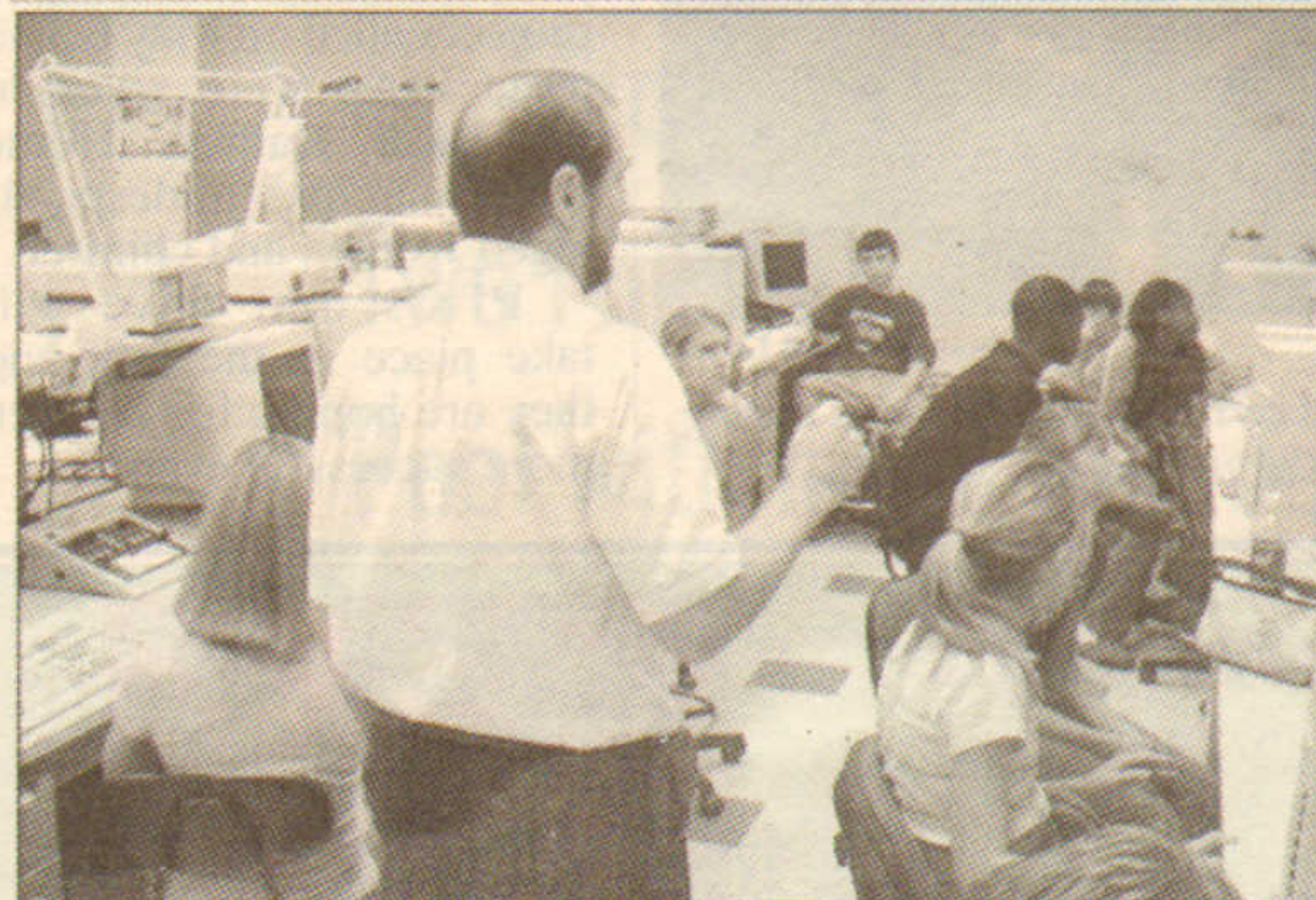
Theatre Tuscaloosa will again be offering its popular Applause Acting Workshops and Ovation Musical Theatre Workshops this summer. For your convenience, each camp will be offered in two sessions from June 1 through 11 and June 21 through July 2.

Applause Workshops focus on acting techniques including improvisation and scene study while Ovation Workshops include vocal and dance training.

Both workshops are designed for students age 10 and older. The cost for the Applause Workshop is \$200 and \$300 for the Ovation Workshop. A \$20 registration fee is required for each workshop. For additional information, call the Theatre Tuscaloosa office at 205/391-2277.

For the first time, Shelton State will extend the Pre-College Ballet Program to include the summer months of June and July.

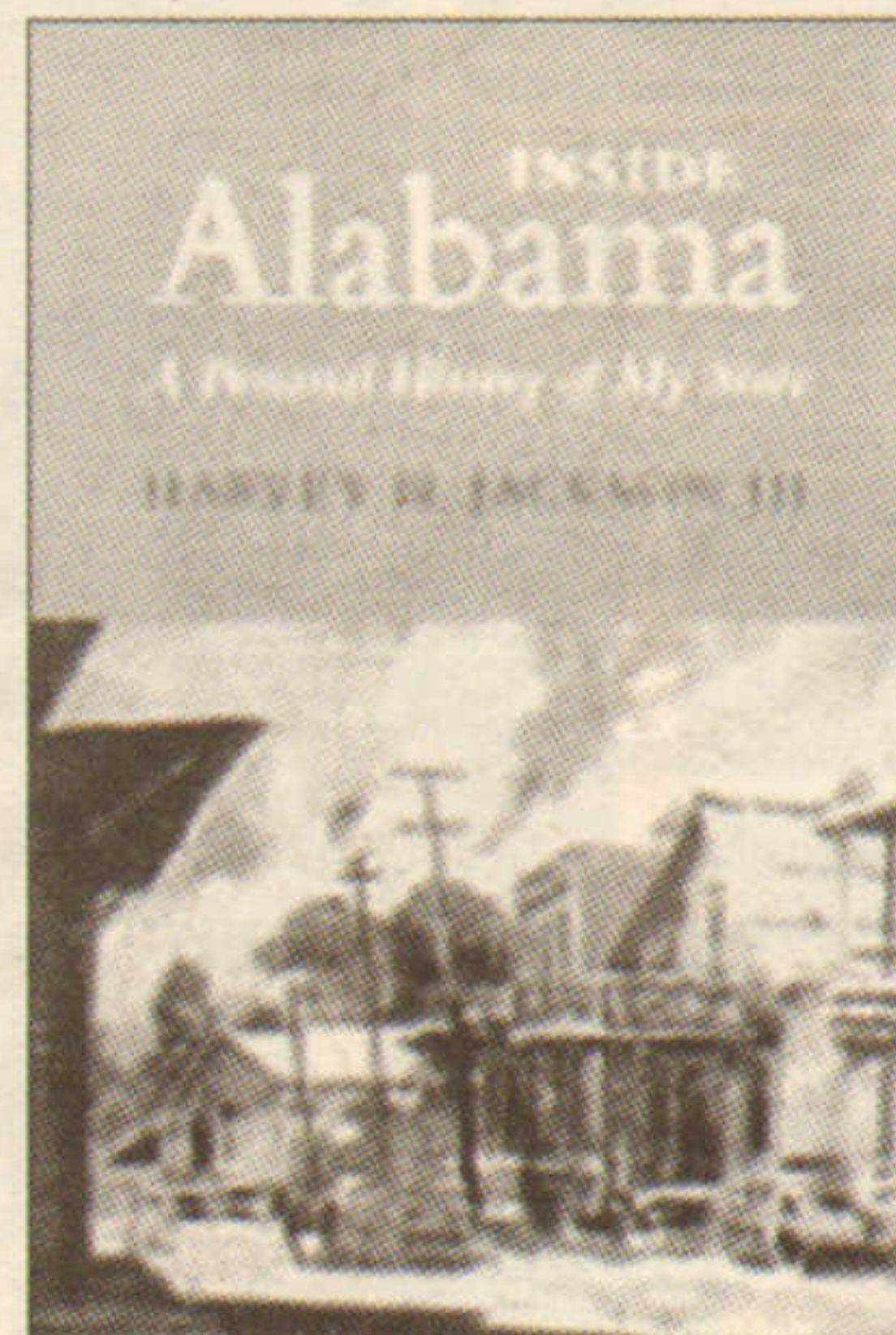
Beginning with children four years of age, students are placed in classes based on their age and level of experience ranging from beginners to advanced levels. Classes begin June 1 and require pre-registration. For more information contact the Office of Continuing Education at 205/391-2386.



Electronics instructor Lee Tucker engages 24 sixth, seventh and eighth graders from Hillcrest Middle School in a number of exercises with nifty apparati. The students were on a field trip set up by Assistant Dean Susan Mohun to reward their efforts in an honors program back at the school. The students also visited labs in chemistry, biology, computerized numerical control and electronics on May 10.

Read the book. Think about the state. And, one day...meet the author

This fall, the *Shelton State Courier* plans to bring the author of a fascinating new book about the history of Alabama to campus. Over the next few issues, we will be telling you more and more about:



Inside Alabama: A Personal History of My State, by Harvey H. Jackson

Alabama can be a baffling place. Harvey Jackson's book makes it less so. Take one of the most baffling, ironical— weird—turn of events in recent state history: the 1998 election of Don Siegelman on, essentially, one platform: a statewide lottery, followed almost immediately by the rejection of that lottery in a statewide referendum. Now how could that happen?

Jackson gives the reader a pretty succinct answer: "Preachers, not politicians, proved the governor's undoing."

Yes, we all know the story of how the churches of the state seemed to band together to defeat the lottery initiative. But to really understand how this paradox could take place you have to know about the combination of scalawags and "methodists" who first populated the territory. When you read Jackson's book

the sometimes wacky place we lovingly call sweet home Alabama will make more sense to you.

Inside Alabama is available in fine bookstores throughout the state or on-line at uapress.ua.edu.



The Grand Gesture

Dr. Cordell Wynn, special assistant to the president, makes a sweeping gesture as he gets a chat rolling with President Rick Rogers and Prim Formby, from U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions's office in Washington, D.C. Formby, one of Sessions's top aides, flew into Tuscaloosa to view the Shelton facilities. "Sen. Sessions has been so wonderful in his assistance to Shelton," Wynn said. "He really helps us to get federal funding through support of our proposals."

Shelton State Courier

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The *Shelton State Courier* is a campus newspaper, written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic

freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper.

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

The *Courier* is an equal opportunity employer and student organization. All students are encouraged to participate.

Shelton State to participate in new state DHS grant program for foster youth

Shelton State Community College announces its participation in the newly launched Alabama Department of Human Services financial aid program for children who have been in the state's foster care program—Chaffee Foster Care Independence Program.

The grant program is called the Alabama ETV (Education Training Voucher) Program. This program provides up to \$5,000 in "grant" aid to assist foster youth in their efforts to continue their education at an eligible public or private non-profit postsecondary institution—either college level or technical training.

Awards may include tuition and fees and other educationally related expenses. Awards are to be coordinated with other financial aid, not to exceed the cost of attendance.

Allowances to the cost of attendance may be made for computer purchase, child care, health insurance and other expenses at the discretion of DHS and the Financial Aid office.

To be eligible, students must be under 21 and have

been in foster care until their 18th birthday. Students who were adopted out of foster care after their 16th birthday are also eligible.

Awards may be renewed, through age 23, if recipients are continuously enrolled and making satisfactory academic progress. Awards may be made to currently enrolled students as well as students planning to enroll this fall.

To review the eligibility requirements and apply, students must go on line to <http://www.studentvoucher.org> or www.statetvoucher.org. An essay of 250-500 words is a part of the application.

Students are asked to express their educational plans, career goals and life goals.

After completing the application, the Financial Aid Information Release Form and the Student Budget Form must be printed and completed.

For more information on this program and other sources of financial aid, please contact JoeAnn Cousette in the Shelton State Office of Financial Aid at 205/391-2275.

Doctors From Page 1

live in rural areas and, usually, it's now easier to practice medicine there, too. But not always.

In Camden, in Wilcox County about 120 miles southwest of Tuscaloosa, where one might well begin a tour of the state's rural health care, two physicians practice the style of medicine their predecessors would have recognized 50 years ago.

With their own clinics and even a small 20-bed hospital, Dr. Sumpter Blackmon and Dr. Willie White have some of the resources of their big-city colleagues, but they also have some unique challenges to cover the needs of the 18,000 (mostly poor) people in their service area. It's not always easy.

For instance, Blackmon,

originally from Columbus, Ga., is giving up his emergency room practice at the tiny nearby hospital because he can't afford it. "I asked my bookkeeper to figure out what money we generated from the emergency room last year. It was \$23,000. Well, my malpractice insurance is \$43,000." He explains how the insurance company heavily frowned on his coverage of ER from his own office and the fact that Alabama's black-belt region is poor and a bit lawsuit-prone. But speaking in a fairly thick Southern accent and with a kind of point-popping diction 32 years of family practice can bring, Blackmon says he loves the town and the kind of medicine he's pursued all these years. "I'm just a simple family practitioner. My wife, the mayor, now she is the one with the interesting tale to tell."

But Henrietta Blackmon,

mayor of the 2,000-person Camden, doesn't think so. She is having Subway lunch with her husband in their attractive 96-year-old home in the downtown historic district. "What people tell me is they are impressed by the way he follows up a patient with a phone call. They love that. He is seeing his patients' children's children now."

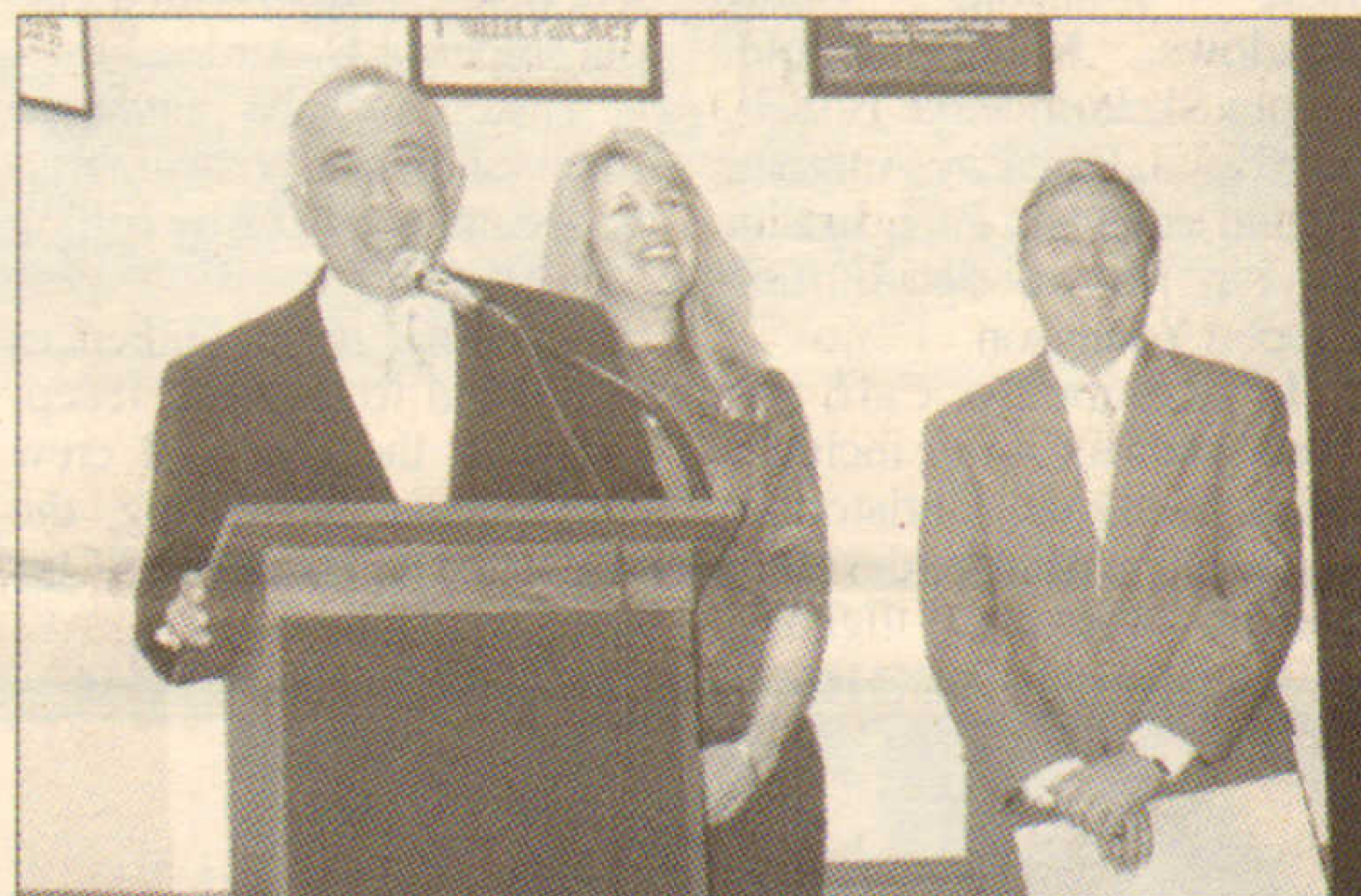
Blackmon says it doesn't matter if he likes to know so much about a small town and the people who live there—that's just the way it is. "We want to know everything about everybody," he jokes, "because they know everything about us! If they don't know it, they make stuff up. That's part of it."

Blackmon now sees about 50 patients a day. When he

See Doctors Page 7

Shelton State bids farewell to Dean Humphrey Lee

After 25 years as Dean of Students at Shelton, Humphrey Lee bids an emotional farewell to the faculty and staff of the college. Lee's wife, Nora, PTK advisor and President Rick Rogers also marked the historic occasion.



Photo/Brandon Lovett



Photo/Brandon Lovett

Home is where the art is

Astronomy and chemistry instructor Lee Albritton admires the photographic work of his son, Matthew (L) as it was displayed at the Kentuck Gallery in Northport May 6-29.

Matthew, a former adjunct photography instructor at Shelton, compiled a show called "The Cedars: finding home," based on the old Albritton homeplace in Camden.

In a break during the May 6 reception, Matthew explained how he took the photos usually with available light at various times over the years. In his artist's statement, the photographer wrote, "I return to the Cedars to photograph over and over again as a way to understand who I am and where my values originated."

Theatre



Annie

Book by Thomas Meehan; Music by Charles Strouse;
Lyrics by Martin Charnin

"Leapin' Lizards!"

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"Tommorow" comes June 17

The hit Broadway musical *Annie* comes to the stage of the Bean-Brown Theatre on the campus June 17 as Theatre Tuscaloosa's annual summer musical production.

The story revolves around Annie, an 11-year-old orphan who longs for her parents to rescue her from the Municipal Orphanage and its mean-spirited matron, Agatha Hannigan. When billionaire Oliver Warbucks stumbles upon the little orphan and decides to adopt her, he must first deal with Hannigan's opportunistic schemes.

Annie opened at the Alvin Theatre on April 21, 1977. The New York production ran for 2,377 performances, making it the third longest running musical of the 1970s. Songs include "Tomorrow," "I'd Like To Thank You," "Little Girls," "I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here," "Easy Street," "You Won't Be An Orphan For Long," "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile" and "Annie."

Director Michael Carr has cast Rosie Webber in the title role of the red-haired orphan. Other young girls playing Annie's fellow orphans

include Kailey Bissell, Erin Hogue, Shelby Smelley, Laura Jean Allen, Mattie Bonds, Pertriena Crummie, Ashley Alexander-Lee, Rebecca Bandy, Sarah Kathryn Bonds, SiAmbria Cabbil, Grace Conner, Mary Katherine Link, Kailie Melchior, Sarah Beth Patterson, Emily Poole, Sarah Stuart, Ciera Sade Wade, and Amelia Webber.

Additional principal roles are filled by Elizabeth Renicks as Miss Hannigan, Mary Kathryn Perkins as Grace Farrell, Charles Prosser as Daddy Warbucks, Ray Taylor as Rooster, Sara Catherine Thomason as Lilly St. Regis and Brent Jones as F.D.R. Rounding out the cast are Lindsay Allen, Kelley Brown, Cheryl Connelly, Rachel Hogue, Jennifer Huggins, Susie Johnson, Betsy Meadows, Natalie Poole, Megan Skelton, Mike Bissell, Jake Boyd, Joey Lay, Anthony Noland, Jonathan Pate, Judson Smyly, Marlin Ward and Wescott Youngson.

In addition to Carr, the artistic staff for *Annie* includes scenic designer Christopher Dunham, costume designer Jeanette Waterman, lighting

designer Jessie Tilton and stage manager Sara-Margaret Coker.

Musical directors for the production are Leslie Poss and Marcia Hood with Leigh Richey Murphree providing choreography.

Annie will be presented June 17 through 27. Evening performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on June 17, 18, 19, 25 and 26. Matinee performances at 2 p.m. are scheduled for June 19, 20, 23, 26 and 27.

Ticket prices for the production are \$20 adults and \$15 for seniors, students and children. On Father's Day, June 20, all "Daddy's" will receive a \$5 discount on the price of one adult ticket when additional children's tickets are purchased. Shelton State student tickets are \$6 with a current student I.D. card.

Tickets may be purchased in person at the box office in the theatre lobby or by calling 205-391-2277.

Opening night audiences are invited to attend a reception with the cast and crew immediately following the production in the Wilson Carr Rehearsal Hall.

"Week" highlighted nursing profession

By Jackie Williams
and Gladys Hill

Of the 2.5 million registered nurses in the U.S., 48,000 of them practice in Alabama. According to a U.S. consumer survey, registered nurses are the number one most trusted profession.

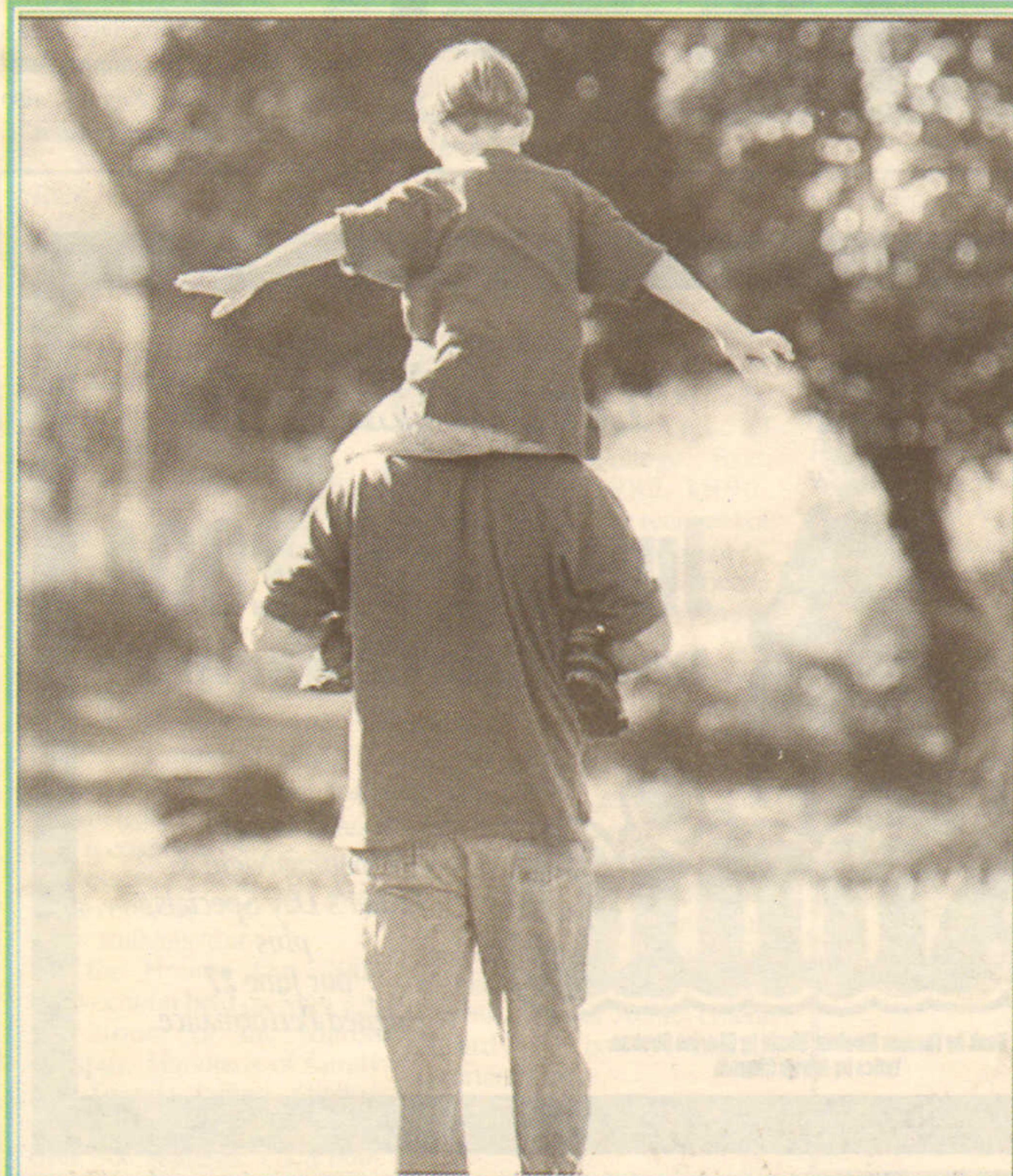
The National Nurses' Week theme for 2004 during May 6-12 was "Keeping America Healthy." The Shelton State Nursing Programs observed nurses week by presenting each nursing student with a gift bag filled with treats and other items to aid in surviving nursing school. In addition to the gift bags, the nursing program sponsored the annual Nurses' Day picnic on April 30 at Snow Hinton Park. A contemporary gospel group, led by nursing student Kenneth Belevu entertained the audience.

During the picnic, the Shelton State Association of Nursing Students (SSANS) recognized two students. Cammie Smith received the SSANS's Leadership Award. Smith was the 2003-2004 president and led the SSANS members in conducting serv-

ice projects on campus and in the community. Cindy Patenaude, was the recipient of the Fellowship Award.

The United States Bureau of Labor's statistics listed nursing as number one for job growth for the next 10 years. The total U.S. student-nursing population rose 3.7 percent in 2001 and 8 percent in 2002, according to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. With a large number of practicing nurses leaving the career, the increase enrollment is not enough to meet the increase demand for nurses by 2010 as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. While the nursing profession struggles to address a catastrophic global shortage of nurses, there is also the growing nursing faculty shortage.

Shelton State is committed to educating nurses in West Alabama. Fifty new associate degree nurses graduated May 2002 and 42 new practical nurses students graduated in 2003. Overall, in 2003 there were a total of 2,294 newly licensed nurses ready to work in Alabama. Of that number, the Alabama College System educated 1,611 or 70 percent of all new nurses.



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Year From Page 1

The speaker for the commencement ceremony was Sandra Hall Ray, member of the Alabama State Board of Education for the 7th District. First elected to the state board in 1995, Mrs. Ray has served on the boards of United Cerebral Palsy, Boy Scouts, Theatre Tuscaloosa, Rotary Club, Shelton State Foundation, Adopt-A-School Steering Committee, the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama and was a past president of the Tuscaloosa



Former SSCC President Leo Sumner congratulates Wilfred Njah for receiving the Outstanding Sophomore Award.

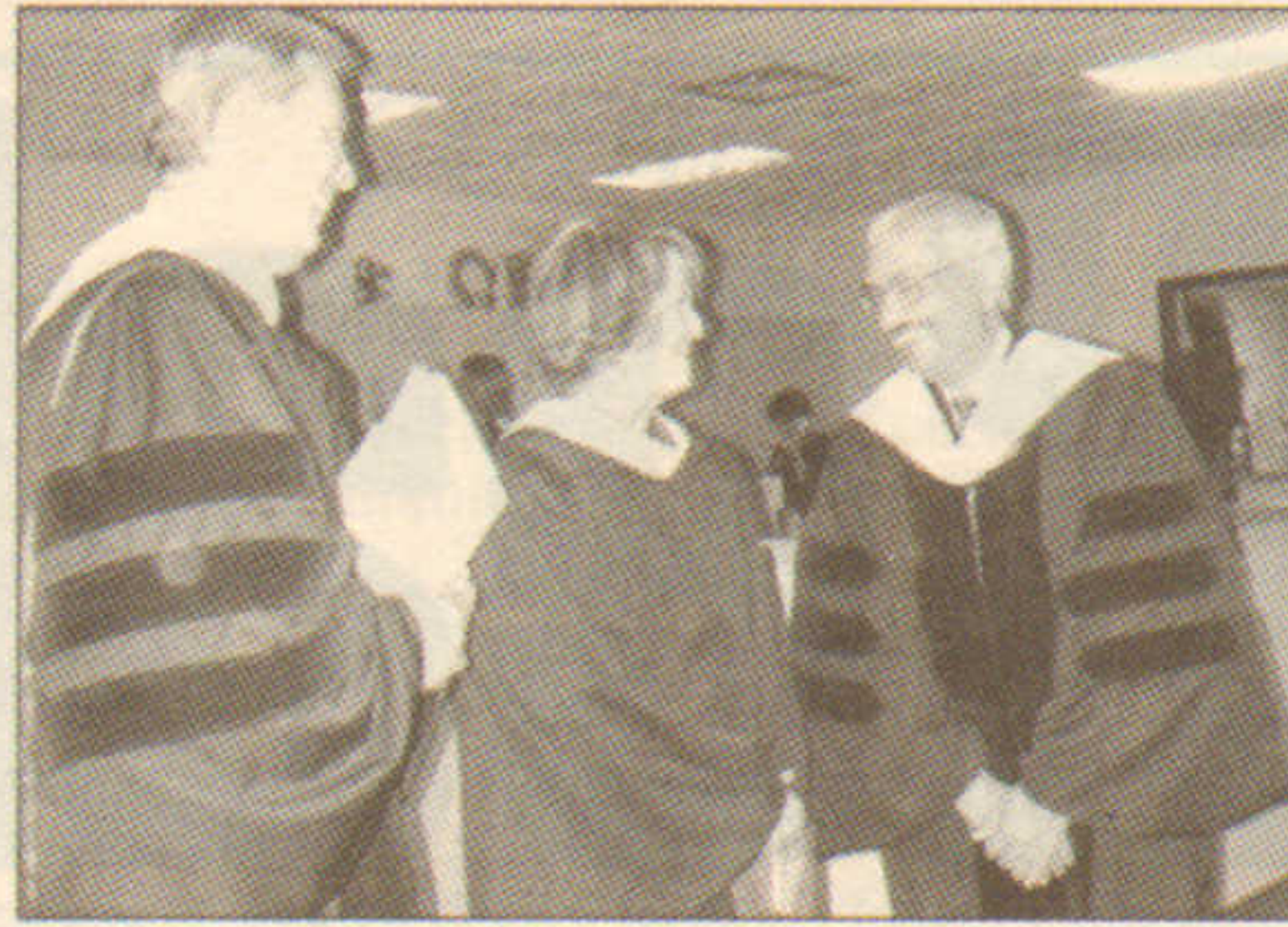
County Board of Education.

Shelton State President Rick Rogers said, "We are delighted to have Sandra Ray as our special guest at our spring commencement ceremony."

Her involvement in education in West Alabama and the entire state makes her the perfect speaker for this event."

The 7 p.m. ceremony was preceded by a reception for graduates and guests at 6 p.m. in the lobby of the Umphrey Center.

Shelton State also recognized the successes and achievements of their students during the Honors Day 2004 Convocation held on May 2 in the atrium of the Martin Campus. Hundreds of family and friends joined Shelton State faculty and staff to honor over 300 students. Each hon-



Getting ready for the graduation ceremonies are (L-R) President Rick Rogers, Sandra Hall Ray and Assistant to the President Cordell Wynn.

ored student was presented with a medallion featuring the Shelton State seal.

The college awards, the most prestigious that the College bestows, included:

The Outstanding Technical Student Award is named for Mr. I. W. Mitchell who was president of Fredd State Technical College from 1976-1982. The recipient of the I. W. Mitchell Outstanding Technical Student Award is selected based on academic achievement, involvement in campus and community activities, technical recognition, and job related activities.

The 2004 recipient of the I. W. Mitchell Award is John Johnson.

The Special Achievement Award is named after Mr. Norman C. Cephus who was president of Fredd State Technical College from 1982-1990. The recipient of the Norman C. Cephus Special Achievement Award is selected based on academic achievement, involvement in campus and community activities, technical recognition, and job related activities. The 2004 recipient of the Norman C. Cephus Special Achievement Award is Lamar Quartermaine.

The Outstanding Freshman Award is named for

achievement and involvement in campus activities. Finalists for this prestigious award were Stormy O'Bryant and Lindsey Thomas. The recipient of the 2004 Thomas E. Umphrey Outstanding Freshman Award is Lindsey Thomas.



Dr. Allen Blackshear takes the Shelton State Brass Ensemble through its rendition of "Pomp and Circumstance" at graduation.

The Outstanding Technical Student Award is named for Mr. Harold I. James who was president of Shelton State Technical College from 1951-1976. Finalists for this prestigious award were William Bozeman and Tara Hubbard. The recipient of the 2004 Harold I. James Outstanding Technical Student Award is William Bozeman.

The Allen Award is named after U. S. Senator James B.

Allen who served in Congress from 1969-1978. The recipient of the James B. Allen Award is selected based on academic achievement and service to the College and community. The 2004 recipient of the James B. Allen Award is Clayton Nance.

The Outstanding Sophomore Student Award is named for Dr. Leo Sumner who was president of Shelton State Community College from 1976-1988. The recipient of the Leo Sumner Award is selected based on outstanding academic performance, school involvement, and community service. It is the highest honor that a student can earn at Shelton State Community College. The finalists for the college's most prestigious award were Wilfred Njah, Tara Robinson and Jessica Christian. The 2004 recipient of the Leo Sumner Outstanding Sophomore Award is Wilfred Njah.



Theresa Herring was named Female Student-Athlete of the Year. She is the only female athlete to have lettered in three sports in the two-year college system: soccer, softball, and basketball. Herring has also maintained a 3.5 GPA throughout her career. She has served on Team Council and the Student Action Committee.

Roland Pugh announces \$100,000 contribution to Building Futures



(L-R) Tommy Hester, Campaign Chair; Rick Rogers, president of Shelton State Community College; Susan Miller, Director of the Center for Workforce Development; and Roland Pugh, Honorary Campaign Chair, announced Building Futures: Campaign for the Educational Endowment Fund for The West Alabama Center for Workforce Development during the center's open house on May 19.

Roland Pugh, honorary chair of the "Building Futures: Campaign for the Educational Endowment Fund for The West Alabama Center for Workforce Development," announced his \$100,000 contribution on May 19 during the Center's Open House. This \$3 million campaign's purpose is to provide support for student tuition assistance and Center for Workforce Development operations.

"I believe that this campaign, one of our most important ever, is appropriately named 'Building Futures,' because that's exactly what this funding will enable us to do. Not only will the Center be training and assessing entry level employees, it will also accommodate those in the workforce who are in need of flexible and immediate skills training, thus ensuring a better life for those employees and their families and also for the West Alabama economy as a whole," said Rogers.



Julie Shukla (L) was named Courier Writer of the Year and Julia Davis (R) was named the Mass Communication Student of the Year.



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Doctors From Page 3

first came there, he sometimes saw 150, some of whom had never visited a doctor. He was the first physician to accept Medicare or Medicaid. Does he regret the decision he made three decades ago to practice rural medicine? "I don't regret it. Every now and then when you've been up four days in a row, you kind of wonder what it would have been like somewhere else. But we have loved this area and this small-town living. I don't think we could survive in a large city."

One of the factors helping to make Blackmon's life easier is his colleague only a few blocks away, Dr. Willie White, who grew up in Thomasville only 30 miles down the highway. They swap hospital calls every other day. Dr. Cook, the town's third doctor, alternates night-time calls. There is also a resident who covers on the weekends.

White seems amazed to find himself having practiced medicine in Camden for the last 19 years. In conversation, he refers to this startling fact several times. He is youthful,

beefy and robust. His companions can't believe his apparent age either. At the behest of a school counselor, White is headed this hot May morning to the local public school for a chat with some seniors about the possibility of a health-care career. Dressed in scrubs with a stethoscope slung around his neck, he jauntily navigates the hallways. Several uniform-clad students say hello to him.

Dr. White, though, is no back-slapper. He looks the students who hail him in the hallways in the eye. Appraising them carefully, he seems to want to know more than "how you doing"; he seems to want to know if they are taking care of themselves. In the library he does not try to make a sales-pitch either. He knows how challenging it is to do well if you're from a rural area, if you don't have the best role models, if you are poor. White doesn't pander to them. "You have to work hard. You have to study," he repeats several times.

Back in his clinic, White doesn't sugarcoat the life of the rural practitioner. "I could have left several times, but I've never done it. A couple of weeks ago they offered me a

position over at Thomasville, my hometown. I decided to stay on primarily because there is a need here."

White never thought he would end up practicing in a rural area. He got interested in medicine in the fourth grade when he went to the hospital four times. In medical school, at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, he thought he would specialize in radiology, but he discovered they never saw patients. He was too big of a people person for that.

A score of years later he is still at it in Camden. "You don't make a lot of money in the rural areas. If someone is interested in medicine and thinking about coming to a rural area, they're not going to think about becoming rich. It's not going to happen here." Dr. White chuckles loudly, looking around his comfortable clinic office lined with pictures of his family. "You've got to be dedicated to doing this kind of medicine to even consider it."

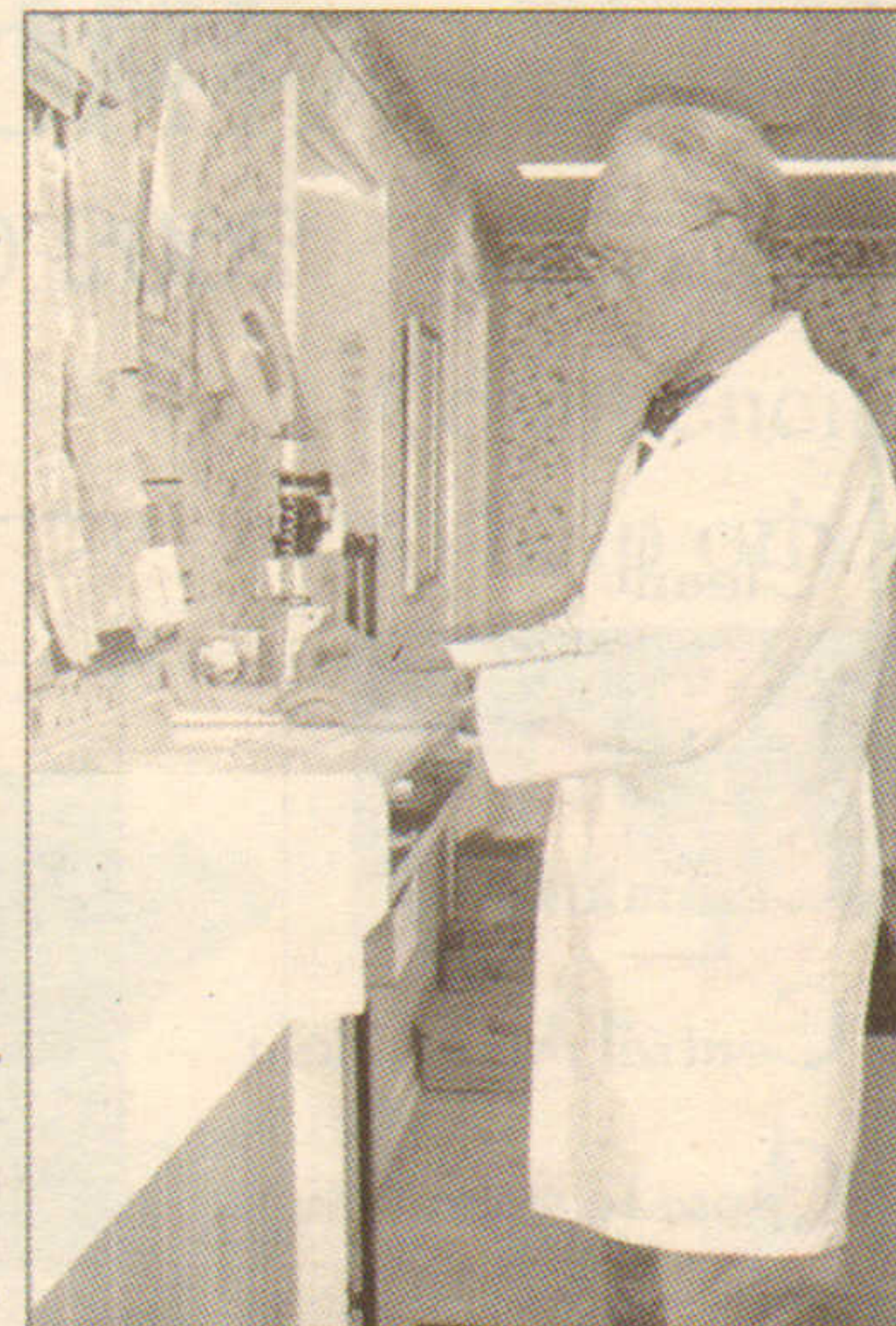
You too could become a country doctor—a rural health care practitioner. The University of Alabama's College of Community Health Sciences is looking

for students who are smart enough, motivated enough, and care enough. If you are, they will be with you every step of the way.

If the life of a rural physician intrigues you, contact them at the department of community and rural medicine—(205) 348-1300.

John Wheat, MD, MPH, Professor of Community & Rural Medicine and Internal Medicine, is director of the UA Rural Scholars Programs. He grew up in Sumter and Autauga counties and is committed to helping rural students become physicians for their hometowns or similar rural communities. You can contact him at jwheat@cchs.ua.edu or 348-1300.

The Courier would like to



Photo/Brandon Lovett

Dr. Sumpter Blackmon writes a prescription in his clinic in Camden. Blackmon has practiced medicine in that small town for over 30 years—and he wouldn't do anything else.

thank Dr. Amit Sharma from CCHS, who has led the paper on its tour of Alabama rural health care. Dr. Sharma begins an internal residency in Montgomery soon, but he vows to stay in touch with this project. We'll hold him to it.

Theatre
A cooperative effort with Shelton State Community College



Annie™

Book by Thomas Meehan; Music by Charles Strouse;
Lyrics by Martin Charnin

"Leapin' Lizards!"

June 17-27, 2004

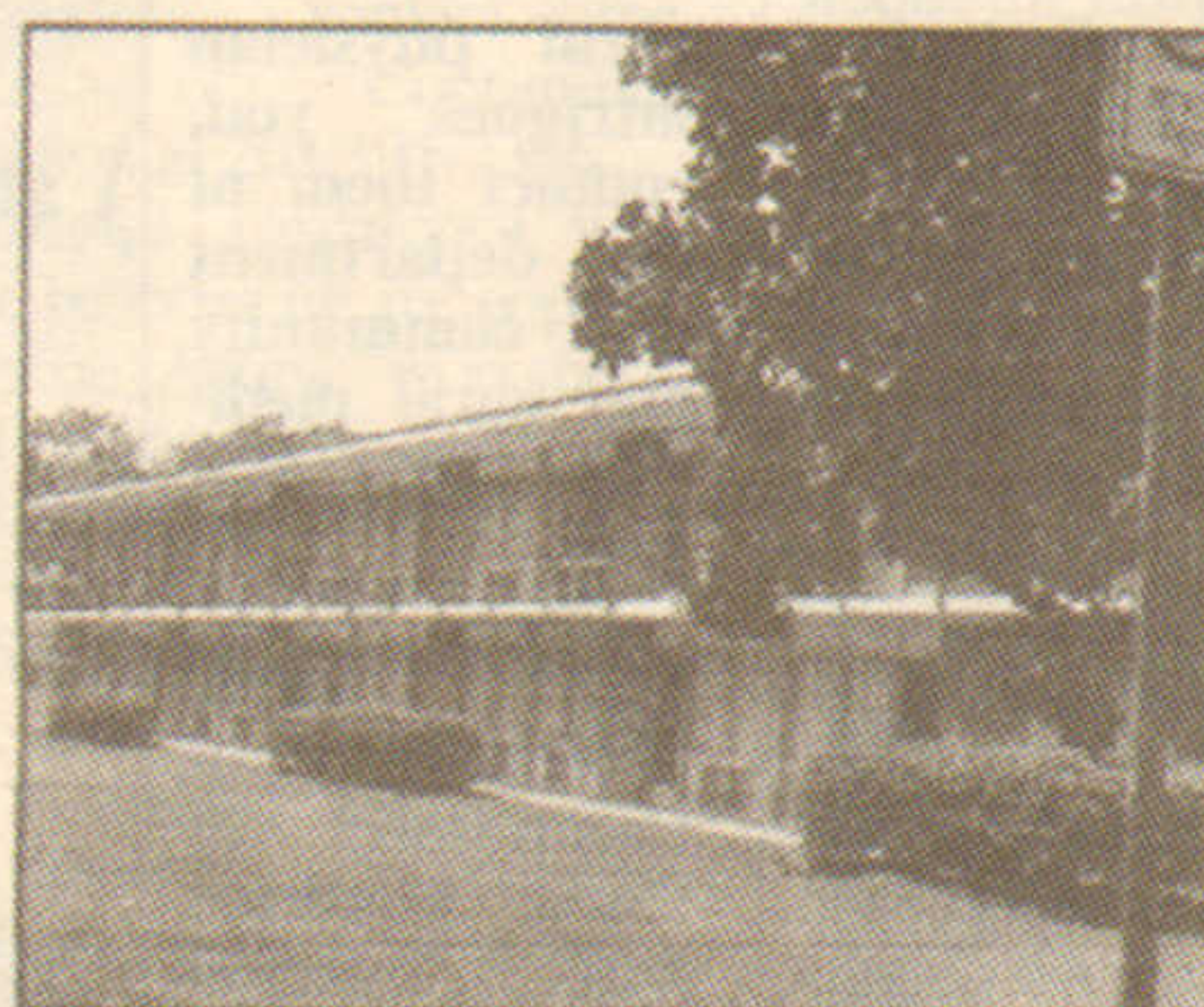
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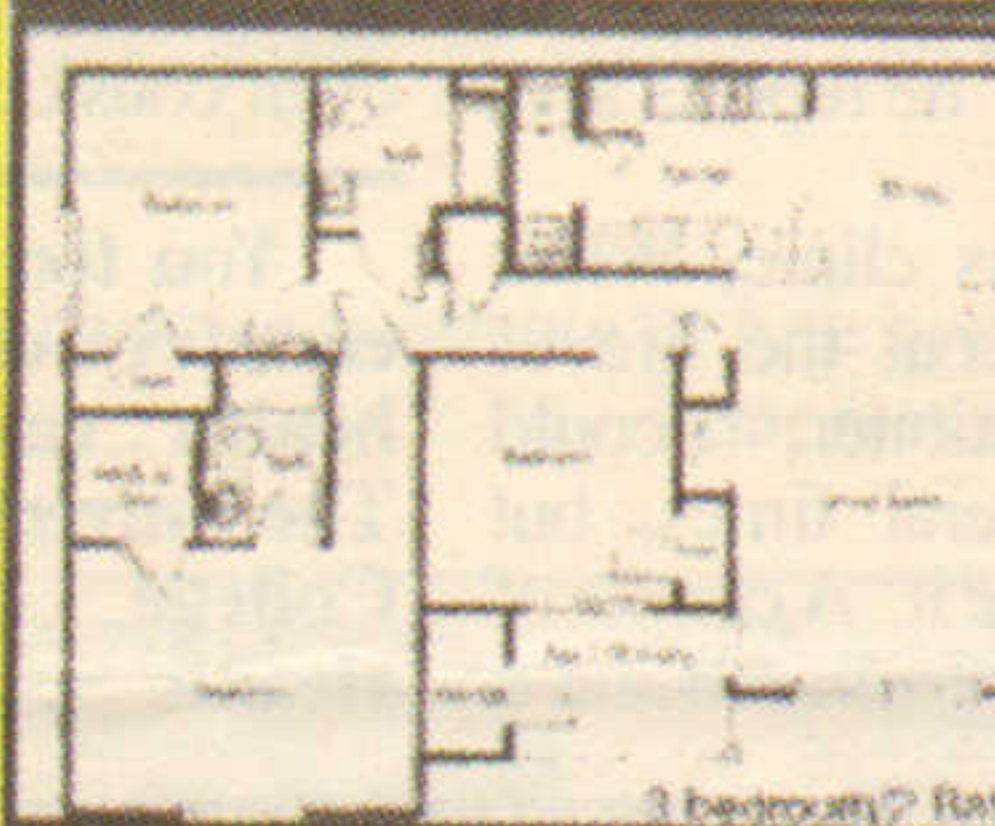
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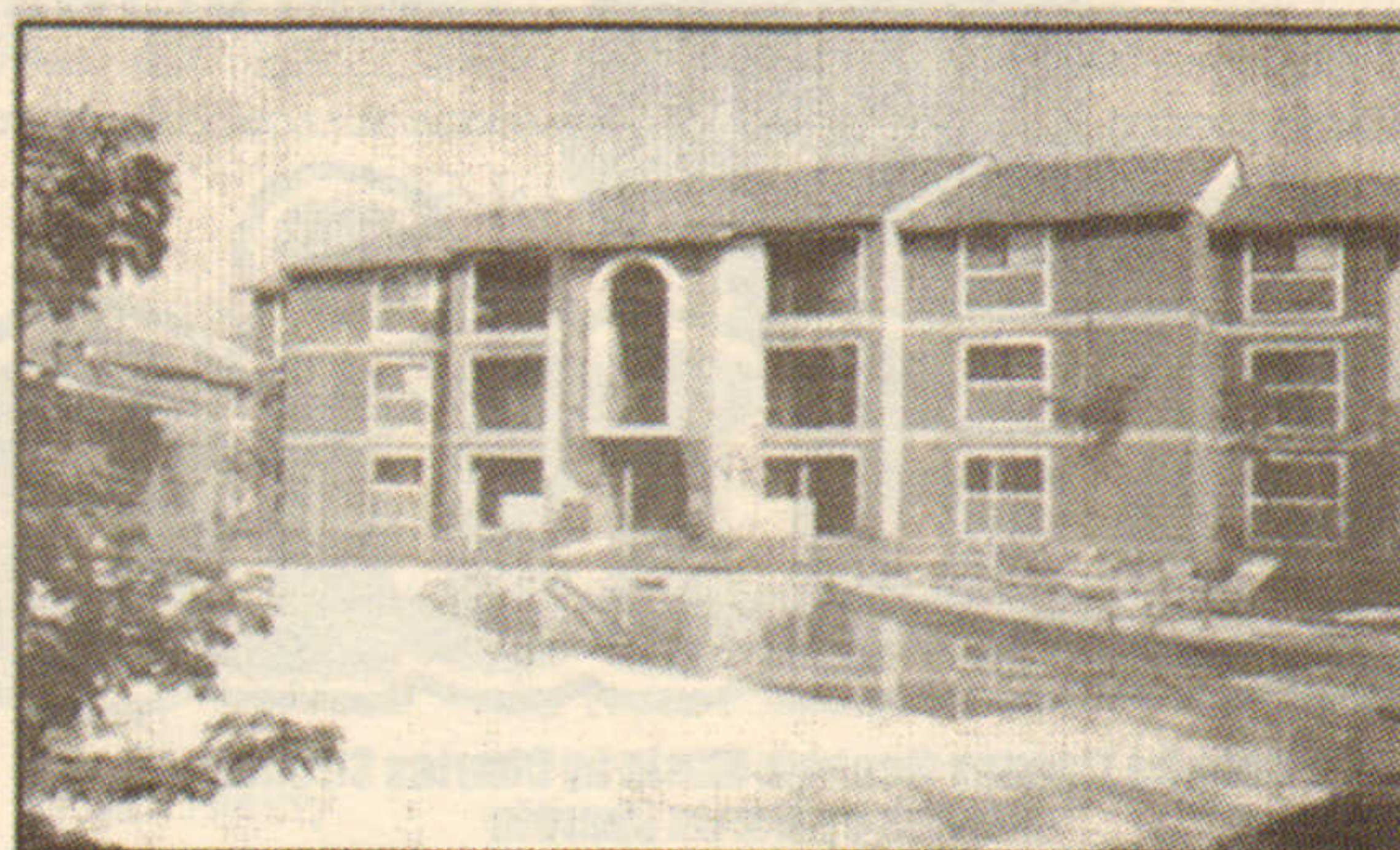
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